



United States House of Representatives
PRESS RELEASE

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Chairman Blumenauer Releases Statement Following Meeting with Supply Chain Experts

Portland, Oregon – House Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee Chairman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) released the following statement after convening a conference call with Democratic members of the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee and top supply chain experts to discuss lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic on supply chain resilience:

“Today, the Democrats on the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee held a productive roundtable discussion on supply chain resilience and lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic. We are seeing firsthand how current supply chains and a lack of a domestic manufacturing base have affected our nation’s ability to respond to the public health crisis, and we will soon see what if any challenges our supply chains will create as we work to safely bring manufacturing and other productive economic activity and employment back online.

“Professor Willy Shih, the Robert and Jane Cizik Professor of Management Practice in Business Administration at Harvard Business School; Dr. Prashant Yadav, Senior Fellow at the Center for

Global Development; and Thea Lee, President of the Economic Policy Institute, provided helpful insight into the current structures of medical supply chains and what can be done to mitigate future shortages for critical supplies such as personal protective equipment (PPE), oxygen therapy devices, COVID-19 testing kits, and medicines.

“The meeting highlighted severe supply chain challenges that have been put in bold relief as a result of the coronavirus. It’s clear that these supply chain challenges were deeply troubling before but in times of severe stress become even more important to address. It’s also clear that the solutions are not particularly complex or difficult if we choose to use our tools to train a workforce, to invest in a diversified production model, to use tools readily available dealing with procurement, and targeting our efforts. It is a matter of will, vision, and follow through which other countries have been able to do as we have in the past.”

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